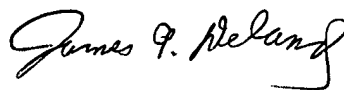


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PATENT

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "James A. Deland".

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VERSION OF AMENDMENTS WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE SPECIFICATION

The paragraph beginning at page 1, line 1 has been amended as follows:

This application is a division of U.S. Patent Application Number. 08/761,606, which is a division of U.S. Patent Application Number 08/348,844, now U.S. Patent Number 5,971,420, which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application Number 08/254,889, now abandoned, the entire disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference.

IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 48 has been amended as follows:

48. (Amended) A snowboard binding mechanism for securing [the] a cleat [of] adapted to be attached to a snowboard boot to a snowboard, comprising:

a front main body adapted to be affixed to the snowboard, said front main body including a cleat receiving opening for receiving a front tab of a cleat;

a rear main body adapted to be affixed to the snowboard;

a latch pivotally mounted to said rear main body to pivot between an engaged position and a release position, said latch including a notch for receiving a rear tab of a cleat;

a spring mounted on said rear main body, said spring arranged to bias said latch toward said engaged position; and

said latch being pivotable to said release position allowing release of the rear tab held therein against the bias of said spring.